UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/6 (Prog. 12)
7 May 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1998-2001

Programme 12. Crime prevention and criminal justice

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Programme 12. Crime prevention and criminal justice	12.1 - 12.3	2
Subprogramme:		
12.1 Crime prevention and criminal justice	12.3	2

96-11698 (E) 130596 150596

12.1 The general orientation of this programme is to promote more effective international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice by devising strategies to deal with global problems and by assisting Governments in their national and multilateral efforts to respond to changing crime trends, as well as to create the necessary instruments and institutions for a more accountable, transparent and effective crime prevention and control system. The programme will also endeavour to transfer expertise in the effective and humane handling of offences, offenders and victims.

12.2 The mandate for the programme lies in the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretariat by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. More specifically, the mandate derives from General Assembly resolutions 46/152 of 18 December 1991 and 49/159 of 23 December 1994 and the recommendations emanating from the Ninth and Tenth United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division will be responsible for the implementation of this programme.

Subprogramme 12.1. Crime prevention and criminal justice

12.3 The subprogramme will focus on six main objectives during the period covered under the plan, as follows:

(a) To promote the fundamental principles of maintenance of the rule of law and good governance and to increase the capacity of States to devise and implement effective, integrated and consolidated strategies and measures at the national level, and to put into effect bilateral and multilateral arrangements at the regional and international levels. This will result in an increase in bilateral and multilateral arrangements at the regional and international levels, together with the promulgation of more effective strategies and measures at the national level to deal with sophisticated forms of crime;

(b) To strengthen the capacity of Governments to reform their legislation and criminal justice systems and to establish or strengthen their institutions and mechanisms for the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of various types of crime. Further, the programme will seek to upgrade the skills of the crime prevention and criminal justice personnel. As a result, by the end of the period covered under this plan, requesting countries will have received the assistance necessary to revise relevant legislation, reorganize their criminal justice systems and initiate long-term strategies for the training of criminal justice personnel, in line with international instruments and recommendations;

(c) To strengthen international cooperation and improve the response of Member States, both individually and collectively, to the various forms of transnational crime, such as, in particular, organized transnational crime, economic crime, the laundering of the proceeds of crime, corruption, terrorism and environmental offences. The programme will seek to improve the knowledge of Member States on the costs of and dangers posed by these forms of crime to sustainable development and democracy. The work of the programme will result in improved legislation and regulatory measures at the national level against these forms of crime and the development of a common concept of organized

transnational crime. In addition, significant progress will be made towards the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime;

(d) To increase awareness among Governments, and in particular among policy-making and planning and implementation agencies, of the importance and long-term effectiveness of devising and including in development plans measures and strategies for crime prevention and control, in particular in the urban areas and in the broader context of public security. To that end, the programme will increase the dissemination of knowledge and information necessary to States in order to make rational and informed decisions in this area. It will maximize the access of States to up-to-date information on crime trends and other pertinent data contained in relevant databases and incorporated in the global United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network. The work of the programme will result in an increased knowledge of crime prevention and control methods, as well as a better evaluation of the operations of criminal justice systems by means of the increased availability of timely and accurate information and data on evolving patterns and dynamics of crime;

(e) To raise public awareness of the United Nations standards and norms and the benefits of their application and use, and to promote the wide application of those standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The programme will identify the problems impeding the practical application of the United Nations standards and norms and recommend appropriate action designed to deal more effectively with burgeoning crime. By promoting the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms, the programme will increase the confidence of the public in law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and improve the public's response to the need for assistance to those agencies in the performance of their functions;

(f) To mobilize increased resources for technical cooperation activities and revitalize the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. The programme will also ensure improved overall coordination within the United Nations system, especially with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for Human Rights, and will strengthen the capacity of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its efforts to improve coordination of technical cooperation activities, whether carried out bilaterally or multilaterally. This will broaden the availability of material assistance and expertise for policy makers and criminal justice practitioners and improve the Secretariat's capacity to respond to requests for assistance.